

" WHEN DREAMS COME TRUE "

PROPERTY OF JOHNNIE SPEER.

WHEN DREAMS COME TRUE

PROPS

ACT ONE

Garden bench
Proch chairs
two rustic chairs
flowers and vines
bouquet of roses
scissors
bible
book
\$100 for Aunt Milly
\$500 for Harry

ACT TWO

Rocking chair
kitchen table with red cover
chepe dresser
kitchen chairs (to dress stage)
old fashioned setee
old hunting pictures to hang on walls
skins (for walls)
rifela
pipe, tobacco, matches
writing pad
pencil
books
comb and brush
shaving outfit
money and long purse for judge
revolver (without hammer or trigger)
handkerchief for Lucille
\$1.000 and purse for Harry
Telegram for Toby
Long envelope with document for Judge

ACT THREE

dollar for Scott
Big roll of bills for Toby
at gun for Sheriff
Warrant for Sheriff

ACT FOUR

library talbe
Wicker chairs and table
electric wall bracket
pictures for walls
fiano and stool
bric-a-brac
books
Two jardineers with flowers
phonograph and records
photo for Joe

Cast of Characters

[illegible]

(by her R C) Don't reckon anything could ever make you mad. You are
just naturally too good to get mad at folks.

Aunt M
Oh no, I'm not. (smiles)
Toby

(edge closely and smiles) Yes, you are, Aunt Milly (hand on her shoulder)
You are the bst old gal in the village.

Aunt M
Toby, you never say that 'less you wa t something (pause) What is it,
Toby?

Toby
Will you lend me the loan of a dollar?

Aunt M
Wjat do you want it for?

Toby
I want to pay Zeke Stebbins the dollar I borrowed from him to laon to 29
Si Medders so he could pay back the dollar he borrowed from Dacen
Snodgrass to pay Deacon Jones the dollar he borr owed from pa t' pay the
ice cream Matilda Weatherwaz eat at the social last night.

Aunt M
(takes dollar from pocket) Toby you are always thinking of something
fer somebody else.

Toby
Don t blame me, its the way pa raised me.

Aunt M
(gives money) Here's the dollar.

Toby
Gee g sh, aint o wonder everybod, in the village loves you.

Aunt M
Everybody loves you too, Toby.

Toby
I aint seen no pretty glas workin' over time at it (disgust) But doggone
it, you can't blame 'em none.

Aunt M
Why not?

Toby
Gaze on my fe2turs and you are answered. Nature ram plum out of good
material afore she started orkin on me, cause there aint a d erned thing
about me thats complete and sound.

Aunt M
(X's L) Toby, you're outside may not be dainty or ornamental but side
you are pure gold.

Toby
Then somebody outhg to turn me inside out.

-Aunt-M- Polly
(enter L U light and a ry, X's C) Good morning.

Toby
Howdy, Polly.

Polly
Where's Scotty?

-Toby Aunt M
In the house dressin'.

Polly-Toby
(to Pol y) Since you've been up here, he's as finicky as a woman about
dressin'.

Scott
(enter from house R don't see Polly) Mother, where is my---(sees Polly)
Good Lord (exit in house quickly embarrassed, has on only trousers and
B. V. D shirt)

Polly
(to Aunt) Was that Scotty?

Aunt M
Yes.

Toby
(laugh aloud) Gee gosh, rekcon he didn't want ou to see him only about one half dressed.

Scott
(opens door slightly, puts head out) Mother, where's my silk shirt?

Aunt M
In the bureau drawer.

Scott
(grins at Polly) Be out in a minute, Polly. (shut door)

Aunt M
(to Polly) Judge Teeters tells me he saw your brother-in-law last night

Polly
Yes. (X s R) He came up from New York, last night.

Toby
I never did have no use for him. (Poll and Mill look at Toby in surprise) and since he's gone to New York, and got rich he thinks common folks was made for door scrapers.

Aunt M
Toby, you musn't's speak out so plain like.

Toby
Don't blame me. Its the way pa raised me. (X(s up C) Here he is now) (XL)

Aunt ?
(X(s up meet Harry C at gate) Come right in, Harry. We are mightyglad to see you. Why didn't you come right here instead of going to the hotel?

Harry
(enters briskly fashionably dressed hold C take Aunt's hand, very formal) I had an appointment with some business associates.

Aunt M
We'd a been right glad fer you to have spent your vactaion with us, and it would cost you a cent.

Harry
(look about) You've made some changes, since I sold you this place.

Aunt M
Yes, these folwers is Lucille's idaw (takes rose from bouquet) Won't you have a rose?

Harry
(coldy) No thanks.

Aunt M
(kind and sweetly) We have plenty, and won't miss one a bit. (holds rose to him, he gestures his refusal)

Harry
I prefer flowers with a more delicateperfume.

Toby
(disgusted) Give him some of them blossoms off that stink weed, that grows in the hog lot.

Aunt M
Toby, you should not speak disrespectful like.

Harry
I don't mind his rudeness at all. A man's intelligence is always shown by his manner. (looks at Toby disgusted)

Toby
(blustering) Gee gosh, if that's the case, your brains wouldn't make standing room for a knat. (Harry shows anger, Polly slight burst of laughter, put hand over mouth. Aunt M uneasy)

Scott
(stick head out door) Mother, hwere is my green speckled necktie?

Aunt M
I'll get it for you. (exit in house)

Toby
Gee gosh! (asi-fa- as if he remembered)

Polly
(X 's R) What's the matter?

Aoby
Gee gosh, I clean forgot a dollar I borrowed fer Zeke Stebbins and he's out there wating fer it (rush to gate) Tell Aunt Milly I'll be back.
(exit L U)

Polly
I've a great piece of news for you.

Harry
What is it?

Polly
I'm engaged.

Harry
(surprised) To whom?

Polly
(nods) Scott Reynolds (r)

Harry
(astonished) Polly, you don't mea it/
Polly

But I do really honest to goodness marry for love, engagement.

Harry
(displeased) Its ridiculous.

Polly
(smile) Yes, but its nice.

Harry
You don't realize what you are doing. He hasn't a dollar in the world.
He prospects for the future.

Polly
But he has.

Harry
What are they?

Polly
(eagerly) Aunt Milly, Lucille, Scott and I have all figured out how we are going to make a fortune.

Harry
(smil s) That's interesting. (takes Pily by arm lead her to seat L both sit) How will you do it?

Polly
Simply by a mistake you made, when you sold 160 acres, and packed off to New York. You didn't know that this sleepy little village would e day be a popular summer resort.

Harry
No I did not.

Polly
This place is the prettiest and best location in the Adirondacks Mountain for a big summer Hotel.

Harry
That's true.

Polly
We are going to build one.

Harry
(thoughtful) That so?

Polly
You sold it for \$5.000 and if you had it back, you woul easily sell it for \$50.000.000

Harry
(look dlose at her) how do you know?

Polly
There has been several New York speculators here, try ng to buy it, from what I have heard, they'd make this town a second Monte Carlo

as far as gambling is concerned. I advised them not to sell.

Harry

Why so?

Polly

Well, I don't like the idea of our little old home town being made into a gambling resort, and another is, that if its worth much to them it is worth more to Aunt Milly and Lucille.

Harry

Well, they couldn't sell without my consent anyway.

Polly

(surprised) Why not?

Harry

I sold it to them on contract, and the ddes are still in my name transfer will not be made until they make their last payment.

Polly

That's \$1000 isn't it?

Harry

Yes, secured by a note due in a short time.

Polly

And if they fail to pay the note, they lose the place?

Harry

Yes.

Polly

Then that is the reason they have been working so hard of late.

Harry

You think they will be able to pay it? (rises, X's C)

Polly

I'm sure they will (rises X's t him) But if they shouldn't, you'll give them more time, won't you?

Harry

(thong tful) (as if not hearing her, suddenly makes to fact) Yes, yes of course.

Scott

(enters from house) (X's to Harry, offers hand briskly) Glad to meet you, Harry (to Polly) Lucille wants you.

Polly

(lightly to Harry), Don't blame Scott for becoming engaged to me.

Harry

Why not?

Polly

Because it was my fault. (run to house) I coaxed him into it (exit house)

Scott

Hope you won't kick up a fuss about it.

Harry

Not at all. I'm pleased.

Scott

(grasps his hand quickly) Thanks old man, thanks.

Harry

I can see but one obstacle to your happiness, you're a poor man.

Scott

But I'm going to be---

Harry

Sich. I've heard all about your plans.

Scott

How do you like them?

Harry

Good idea, but you need money ~~you~~ to build a hotel, that will please New Yorkers.

Scott

We'll save, and---

Harry

It will take years, and unless you do as I

did and make a fortune over night.

Scott

But I haven't the money to invest in speculation.

Harry

Haven't you five or six hundred dollars?

Scott

Mother, Lucille and I have a little over seven hundred saved up to pay that note.

Harry

You back it in your name?

Scott

Yes.

Harry

I could place that for you, so that it would double in a few days, then you could follow one speculation after another, and soon be a rich man.

S

Scott

But we might lose, then we would have nothing with which to pay that note.

Harry

You can surely trust your future brother-in-law to see you through.

Scott

(surprised and relief) Why of course---I had forgotten that you are going to be a member of the family. I'll speak to mother and Lucille about it. (starts R)

Harry

(quick) I don't believe I would, I'd do it, just as a little surprise for them.

Scott

that would be great, wouldn't it?

Harry

Sure.

Scott

(thoughtful) Your scheme sounds mighty fine, but---

Garry

(pause) But what?

Scott

I guess I'll let it alone.

Harry

(keen look at him (shrug indifferently X L) That's up to you. Suppose I should insist upon the payment of the note, when it comes due? How would you get the balance of the money you need?

Scott

Well, we have a little bunch of sheep, we have been keeping for that very purpose (Lucille, Polly and Aunt enter from house) Would you like to see them?

Harry

Yes.

Lucille

(X to Harry shake) Hello Harry. (L C)

Harry

Glad to see you, Lucille. (L)

Scott

(C---to Polly) We're going down to have a look at the sheep, won't you come along?

Harry-Polly

(R C) Sure thing.

Scott

Be back in a little while, sis (exit R with Harry and Polly)

Lucille

(X up looks after them) Scott seems very happy, mother (X down slowly)

Aunt M

Yes

Aunt M
Yes, I reckon one of these days, you'll be all wrapped up in some man, same as he is in Polly.

Lucille
Perhaps.

Aunt M
(anxiously) Do you think Joe Moreland is the man to make you happy?

Lucille
Why do you mention him as being the man?

Aunt M
(arm about Lucille) Your different towards him, you have a look and a smile for Joe that you don't have for any other man in the village.

Lucille
Joe needs kindness and sympathy more than any other man in the village.

Aunt M
Are you sure it aint MORE than kindness and sympathy your feeling?

Lucille
Mother, I love him.

Aunt M
Does he know it?

Lucille
Of course not, I couldn't let him know it, until he first says he wants me

Aunt M
I love Joe Moreland most as tho he was my own son, but I can't help wishing it warn't him youkeered fer.

Lucille
Why?

Aunt M
You know how folks look down on him?

Lucille
Its there little mean and narrow minds, they're making him answer for the sins of his father.

Aunt M
If you was to become his wife, they'd turn there backs on you, just the same as they do on him.

Lucille
Its the dream of my life to make my friendship and influence a help to him. I want him to raise himself to the position among men that he deserves ----but people won't give him a chance. They'd make him a social outcast and it isn't right. (Judge, Joe and Toby enter L U., through gate C)
(Hudge wipes forehead with hankie, shows anger) (Judge R C Toby L Joe LC)

Judge
I'll be dad gasted if I don't get even with Jason Evens.

Aunt M
(R) What's the matter, Judge?

Judge
Joe and me's been up to see Jason Evens, to try to get him to back Joe a puttin over that invention he's got.

Lucille
(to Joe) Wouldn't he do it?

Joe
He just laughed at us.

Judge
The dad gasted moth eaten old ninny poked out his chest fit to bust, and said, He's worked too hard to risk his reputation for honest, b having anything to do with Joe Moreland.

Aunt M
What did you tell him?

Judge
(

Judge

(X's R) I can't repeat it to no scripture lovin' woman like you, but what I said don't leave no room for doubt in his mind, bout what I think of him.

Lucille

(to Joe) Harry Carson is here. Perhaps he'll help you.

Joe

He was always like the rest of the folks around here, never though me anything but a no account loafer, but I reckon it won't do no harm to ask him.

Toby

Keep a stiff upper lip, Joe, and you'll come out on top yet.

Joe

I've been fighting against odds and ends since I was born, I wasn't wanted when I came into the world---and I aint wanted now.

Aunt M

Its just people's waggin tongues that keeps you down.

Toby

(C) Pa says "To gues of scandal is agents of the devil, and sends more souls to hell than anything else"

Aunt M

I reckon he's right.

Toby

Of course he's right he's studyied huma nnature, and the Almanac almost as much as you do the bible.

Joe

The folks here in the village haint never proved anything bad about me.

Toby

But doggone 'em they aint no devilment done (X L) but what they are ready to accuse you of everytying from bab stealing to murder.

Joe

I can't see no justice in any plan that turns people agin' a man, jist cause his father was a thief and died in prison (intents) That's what I'm praying for. That's why I'm sneered at and called no account. (takes bible from coat pocket and hands to Aunt) Heres that testament you let me have.

Aunt M

You promised you'd read it, Joe.

Joe

I have.

Aunt M

And didn't the 23rd Psalm bring you no comfort?

Joe

It kinda set me to thinking it would, and I was beginning to believe in this book (pause) but I aint now.

Lucille

(L C) What has turned you against its teachings, Joe?

Joe

(decidedly) Church going folks. (all look at him surprised) I went down to their meeting last night, thinking I'd get a better understanding of things and be able to live the way you folks want me to.

Aunt M

What happened, Joe?

Joe

I sat down by Sy Netteres, and as soon as I done it, he got up and moved. After meetin ' was over, I kinda hung around thin ing I'd talk things over with the parson. The folks stood around shakin hands, and actin glad to see each other. (ause ---with regret) Down in my heart I was longing for them to take me by the hand and say "Come again" But they didn't have no hand shake for me. They didn't have no welcome.

Aunt M

Did you talk with the parson?

Joe

No, the way they acted to me, I sneaked out just like a sheep killin' dog, and went down to my cabin, I aint wanting none of their kind of religion. I'll wait till I get hold of a book that's got your kind.

Aunt M

Mine goes out of the same book, Joe.

Joe

I don't see how you can get two kinds out of the same book.

Aunt M

You don't! It aint what you pretened to be, that makes you good, Joe, its what you really are. (offers bible) Read it again (pause) for the sake of me and Lucille.

Joe

I'd go through hell for you and Lucille (puts bible in pocket)

Aunt M

And remember the scriptures are to the weary soul, what medicine is to the sick body. But nigher ans does you any good unless you use them right.

Joe

(smiles at aunt) A person can't be around you very long, without feelin sort of glad he's alive. No matter how much trouble eh's got.

Toby

(quick and with alarm) Gee gosh---dad gum-- gold dern- (all look surpris

Aunt M

Toby Teeters how you do swear.

Toby

Don't blame me its the way pa raised me

Joe

What's the matter?

Toby

I clean forgot to remember what I was told not to forget.

Judge

(X to Tob, angry) Well, what is it?

Toby

One of them city folks wh's staying to the bi hotel told me to tell Aunt M there'd be a bunch of them down here for dinner.

Aunt M

(excited) My lands! How'll I ever take care of 'em? I'm not half ready to feed folks. (to Lucille) Come dear, see if we need anything from the store. (exit in house quickly) (Lucille starts to follow, Joe speaks aside to her)

Joe

Can I speak to you alone, after a bit?

Lucille

Yes, I'll return as soon as I can (exit A Joe looks after her) (pull rose from vase pulls petals apart)

Judge

Your forgettin has got Aunt Milly all flustered. You eat plum brainless (turn to Joe)

Toby

Well---folks always tells me I'm jest like my father. (Judge turns quick Tob, runs back of bench, Judge follows Toby up C turns and faces Judge)

Judge

I ought to skin you alive.

Toby

(to M) Wouldn't do any good to skin me, pa, I aint a fur bearing animal and you wouldn't get nothing fer my hide.

Joe
Business is picking up fer Aunt Millym(R)

Judge
I've noticed that if late, wonder what's the cause?

Toby
(C) Taint no use wondering if you'll jest gaze at me.

Judge
What you have to do with her boarding house business?

Toby
(importantly) I'm one of them there (pause) (as if forgotten the word)
(takes book from pocket turns a few pages) Gee gosh I done forgot what
I am---here it is (reads) I'm a op to--Mis tic--as-s-ke logic---er-
(pronounces each syllable clearly, meaning optimist psychologist)

Judge
I aint going to have nothing like that in my family. Sounds like one
of them Bullshevicky furrin fellows.

Toby
Tiant nuther. Lucille called me that twiced yesterday and said (study
looks at book) Op-t- mis--tic---er is a feller who is allers looking
on the bright side of things and the other feller, the (look at book)
si-ke -logic---er is a feller what knows the very minute to do a thing
so it will bring the best results.

Joe
What's that got to do with the way business has picked up for Aunt Milly?

Toby
I'm the feller what's brung results.

Judge
How?

Toby
I jest set along side of the road out there and when anybody has tire
trouble I get to talking to 'em about Aunt Milly's Boarding House, and
send 'em in fer grub.

Judge
I understand.

Toby
She's the best cook that ever swabbed a skillet and when they eat here
onc't they want to come again.

Joe
You've explained that to our satisfaction, Toby.

Toby
(pleased) Oh I'm a good explainer.

Judge
Maybe you can explain to me how two out of three tires get punctured abo
forty rods below here.

Toby
Yes sir, I kin. Tires is independent and contrary critters and don't
ask nobody where 'er when they want to bust. (look at Joe and Judge)
Get me?

Judge
If I don't get you, somebody else will. Joe and me ste ped down there t
morning to see if we could find out what caused so many punctures.

Toby
(disgusted) That was darn thoughtful of you.

Joe
(to Toby) We found a board burried in the road.

Judge
And they was a nail driven in the board.

Toby
Boards is what folks drive nails into.

Judge
You done it. (Toby starts to deny) Don't deny it, what did you do it for?

Toby

Fer t e sake of Aunt Milly she's had a boarding house sign haning up for moe than a y ear, but it didn't make a doggone sent till a month ago, you know why?

Joe

Nobody ever stopped here

Toby

That's it exactly, they go whizzing by and go and stop at the big hotel all Aunt Milly got was their dust, their old lizzies made.

Judge

Do you got the idea of MAKIN' 'em stop, eh?

Toby

Yes. Some folks don't know the difference between custard pie and corn beef, till you show 'em. After they get some of Aunt Milly's fodder, th was jest naturally glad their old fires busted.

Joe

Does Aunt Milly and Lucille know your system of building up their business?

Toby

(alarmed) Gee gosh, no! If she did---she'd lose her faith in prayer.

Judge

What makes yer think that?

Toby

You know she counted a whole lot of on helping pay for this place with the money she' make offen keepin' summer boarders. When they didn' come she never whimpered. she'd jest be happy, all the time and say, "The Lord will provide a way" And I got her ter thinkin that maybe the Lord had more then he could do providing ways fer folks ter live so I jest chipped in and helped him out. (Joe smiles up to gate, looks off)

Judge

You got more brains then I thought.

Toby

(place arms around on Judge sh oulder in loving manner) Pa, it aint the size of your brains that counts, its using what little you got.

Judge

(proud) Toby, you'll amount to something one of these days.

Toby

I'd be amountin to somethin' right now if it wasn't fer you.

Judge

Toby--you---you aint ashamed of your old dad, are ye?

Toby

(X R C dig toe in stage)) Well---I aint---exactly ashamed of you, but I aint bustin my eye balls lookin at yer with pride.

Judge

Why not?

Toby

You are too doggone slow, here you have the chance of makin' you and me rich and famous, but yer jest lettin it pop away.

Judge

I don't understand ye at all.

Toby

(look at him and shakes head sadly) Pa, your ignorance is plum pitiful. Don't you know they're goin' to build a hotel here some day, that'll make 'em all rich and famous?

Judge

Yes, but what has that got to do with me?

Toby

Aunt Milly's a-widder, can't you see a she widder and you're a he widder. Pa, it aint right to raise me up a lonesome orphan.

Judge

Toby, since you've been working so much for the New York city folks, you've got some strange notions in your head.

*oby

If it hadn't been for strange notions John D. Rockefeller, any Carnegie, and J. P. Morgan would a been bums.

Judge

(thoughtful) Well, the idea may not be so bad, I'll think it over.

Toby

Jest thinkin' won't make Aunt Milly any relation of mine, you've got to act. (Urag Judge to ards house) Get busy (Lucille enter with groceries list X)

Lucille

Judge, mother wants to see you.

Toby

He's goin right in (pas Judge to house)

Judge

Toby and me's both goin in.

Lucille

I want Toby to go to the store.

Toby

~~See you later~~ Yes'm (takes order exit L U gate)

Judge

See you later Joe (exit House)

Joe

All right, Judge (X's down R)

Lucille

(R C) We're alone now, what did you want to talk about?

Joe

About you---and me.

Lucille

I wouldn't be an interesting topic of conversation. Let us talk about you. (sit on bench R)

Joe

(X's to bench R) I been thinkin' of you and Aunt Milly more'n usual.

Lucille

You have?

Joe

(sit on bench R) I've decided I aint doin' right by you.

Lucille

I don't understand you, Joe.

Joe

You folks have stood by me, and its your good influence that has kept me from sinkin way down. I reckon i'd ought to do somethin' too show you I'm grateful.

Lucille

You have shown it in many ways, Joe.

Joe

I reckon the best way I could show it, is to prove to the folks here in village that your friendship aint been wasted.

Lucille

How could you do that?

Joe

(intense earnest) By makin' somethin' out of myself in spite of 'em. I have come to the conclusion that I owe it to you and Aunt Mill to make a name for myself, and force them that now despise me to turn there unce to smiles of respect.

Lucille

If you could only DO THAT my dreams would come true.

Joe

There's a stumbling block in my way right at the start. I aint got the education that I need.

Lucille

(pause thoughtfully) You can get it. We'll fix up the attic, and make

at a school room for you, oh I'll help you all I can.

Joe

When can I start in?

Lucille

In the morning.

Joe

I'll be there early. I reckon they aint no limit to what a man can do when he's got a woman like you backin' him.

Lucille

(smiles) They say a woman is the greatest influence in a man's life, and he can either rise or fall thru her.

Joe

and I suppose there comes a time in every man's life, when some woman means more 'n all the world to him.

Lucille

(serious) Yes---I guess you are right.

Joe

"nd I been thin in' a woman is the only key that will unlock the door, and let a man walk out into a world of real happiness.

Lucille

Joe, I never suspected you of having such thoughts.

Joe

I reckon most folks would laugh at a man like me, havenin' such dreams, but when I'm down there in my cabin, I get to wishin' there was some good woman in the world that I could call my own.

Lucille

Its natures law, that every man have his mate, you'll find yours sometime somewhere--

Joe

(rise and X's slowly) I found the one I want.

Lucille

(rise surprised) YOU have?

Joe

But she's far above me. I can't ever hope to call her mine.

Lucille

Does she know that you---care for her---that you want her?

Joe

No I aint got no right to speak till I have something to offer her. I want to make myself a man she won't be ashamed of.

Lucille

(X to him) Are you sure that she is the only woman in the world that could make you happy?

Joe

Yes. A man can have women friends he likes, and could do anything for but when it comes to real happiness---I reckon he picks out jest one.

Lucille

Even tho you rise to her level, have you thought possibly she might not care for you?

Joe

That's a chance I got to take.

Lucille

I want your dream of happiness to come true (with effort to hide emotion (thinks he loves another) I'll help you rise to her level and---and---no matter who she is, I'll ---I'll help her (hand to eyes)

Joe

You will? (sees tears) Lucille, there's tears in your eyes. What's the matter?

Lucille

(quick) Its---its the strong sunlight! It always makes my eyes water.

Joe

Then you'd better get your bonnet.

Lucille

Yes, yes, I---I will (exit in house) (Joe looks after her anxiously)

Joe

That's strange, I never knowed too much sunlight to hurt her eyes beofre.
(X L C)

Scott

(enter R U) Hello Joe. (X's quick to house,

Joe

Howdy, what's your hurry?

Scott

I want to get the kodak, Polly and I are going to Bald Knob, and we'll want to take some pictures.

Joe

(sit L) Seems like you and Polly was made for each other.

Scott

Well, Joe, I don't know about that (X&XC) But I do know that I'm the happiest man in the whole village.

Joe

(half dreamily) No you aint, I am.

Scott

What's happened.

Joe

For the first time in my life I feel like I'm going to have a cyance with other men---fell sorta they was somet in ' to live fer and wo fer (rise) From now on I'm cegin' here every day, and take schoolin' from Lucille (Xcott surprised) (turn away displeased. You don't seem none too pleased about it.

Scott

(hates to say it but must) Joe, I've somet ing to say to you, and I don't know how---if I could help it, I wouldn't do anything to make it harder for you---you know that, don't you?

Joe

'Course I do. What's on your mind?

Scott

(nervous) Lately you've been coming here more than usual.

Joe

Yes, I reckon I have.

Scott

Folks are beginning to talk about it.

Joe

(relieved, smiles) Don't let that worry you none. I've had folks talking about me all my life.

Scott

But they haven't talked about Lucille, they haven't linked her name with yours in a vicious manner.

Joe

(astonished) You mean they've been sayin' bad things about her?

Scott

Not yet. At present its only a spark of scandal, but waggin tongues can soon fan it into a flame that will ruin her reputation unless something is done to stop it.

Joe

What kin we do?

Scott

There's only one thing I know (pause) I hate to say it, Joe---but you must come here so often.

Joe

(pause---coarsely) I understand. Its me that might turn 'em against her. They're wantin' to think wrong of her, because she's bein ' my friend.

Scott

That's the only reason they have.

Joe
Does she know they's talk goin' on?

Scott
No.

Joe
+ Jen she must never know it. It would hurt her too much.

Scott
I've put off telling you this, because I tought it might blow over, but it has not. If you come here everyday it will make things worse (gently) She's agirl, Joe, and no matter how pure and good she may be if people start talking about her, she'll lose her good name (puts hand on Joe's shoulder) Put yourself in my place---if she were your sister--

Joe
I'd do the same thing as you've done (sinks on bench L) Its all right, Scott, you---you have torn my heart plum in two, but you had to do it and I aint blamin none. I'll do what you want, I'll give up my chance of bein' something more'n I am. I---I won't come back no more. (drop head crushed)

Scott
(reaches for Joe's hand) Joe--I--

Joe
(half choking) Don't say nothin' Jest let me fight it out---alone. (Scott looks at him, exits slowly in house, Joe looks at house, starts L U Harry enters R U recovering pose) Howdy. (X's down L)

Harry
(L C) I've just been thinking of you.

Joe
(indifferent) That so?

Harry
Yes, I was wondering if you were still in the viallage.

Joe
I am, but right now I'm thinking of leaving

Harry
When?

Joe
Jest as soon as I kin. I want to put jest as much of this world between me and this town as ever I kin.

Harry
I never could undershand why you tried to stay here. You were always sort of a mechanical genius, in a natural way. With some education a little money and a pull you could soon become a rich man.

Joe
(intense) That's what I'm wanting more'n anything right now. If I had five or six hundred dollars, I'd go away and not come back, till I could hold my head as high as any one of 'em.

Harry
You can get money easily.

Joe
How?

Harry
By doing me a little service.

Joe
What is it?

Harry
First tell me how you stand with these people.

Joe
(bitter) I've just been told not to come here any more.

Harry
They are afraid you will steal something.

Joe
(indifferent) Think so?

Harry
Sure. Its your father's reputation following you. I can put you next to something, that ill even up the score against them, at the same time, make you some money.

Joe
I aint sayin I WANT to even up any scores but your mentionin' that money sounds like you might have a scheme, that would be interestin' what is it?

Harry
These people have a little flock of sheep on there (points R U)

Joe
(looks off) Prety aren't they?

Harry
I didn't note e their appearance. Can you manage in some way th t those sheep die within the next two weeks.

Joe
(indifferent) If yer wantin' them ter die, I don't reckon you need worry none cause their goin' t take them to market afore long. (X down L)

Harry
That's especially what I want to prevent. I'll give you five hundred dollars---(Joe looks) If you will kill these sheep before they can take them to market.

Joe
(look at him and X R) You must have a little score of your own you're wantin to settle.

Harry
(C) That need not concern you, will you do it?

Joe
(near D R R) It would be kinda rough on them cause they're expectin to help pay off a note, with the money they get from them sheep.

Harry
If you expect to be a rich man you must ot consider others.

Joe
Why don't you kill them yerself?

Harry
I have reasons for wantin to establish an alibi. The money is a small matter to me, but to you, it means the chance to make the start in life, you want.

Joe
I reckon it does.

Harry
Let this start you on the road to riches. Get welath and people will respect you, and never pay the least attention to how you got it.

Joe
(thinks) All I've got to do is to kill those sheep? Before they get a chance to take 'em to market.

Harry
That's all.

Joe
I'll do it---providin'

Harry
Providing what?

Joe
I see the color of some money first.

Harry
How much do you want? (hands to pocket eagerly)

Joe
(quick) All of it.

Harry
I'll pay you one half now and the balance when you do your part.

Joe

After I kill them sheep, I've got a fat chance of collectin' any money from you aint I? You could pay me or not. Just as yer please, and I couldn't make no holler without gettin' in bad. (decidedly) I ~~wassit-~~ want it ALL or NONE, and if I don't get it all I'll see them sheep aint killed.

Harry

You've got me, Joe, I'll have to dig up.

Joe

I figure if I don't look out fer myself, nobody else will.

Harry

(count five bills) Five one hundred dollar bills!

Joe

(three bills in right and two bills in L hand) I never had so much money in my life (put in both pockets) and I'm sure going to make good use of it.

Harry

Why do you divide the money, putting part in one pocket, and part in the other?

Joe

(smiles) For onct in my life, I want to feel that I got money in both pockets. (move R)

Lucille

(enter from house) Hasn't Toby returned? (R C)

Joe

Not yet, Lucille, how much do you want fer them sheep? (Harry amazed angry)

Lucille

We've been offered \$250.00

Joe

I'll give you \$300 (three from R pocket put in hand she bewildered) (push her toward house) Take the money to Aunt Milly right away.

Lucille

(turn) Whar did you get so much money?

Joe

It was a present from Carson (urges her in R quickly turn to Harry)

Harry

You damn traitor! (starts for him)

Joe

You picked the wrong man, Carson. If I can't amount to somethin' without bein' a low down sheep killin' theif like you, I'll live and die jest NO ACCOUNT JOE! (face each other)

CURTAIN.

Joe's Cabin.

Interior---window C fireplace R corner, rifle by it, on mantle pipe tobacco and matches, rocking chair front of fireplace. Kitchen table with red cover, writing pad, pencil, books and etc; cheap dresser L corner, comb brush shaving outfit, kitchen chair s about t dress stage. Old fashioned settee L I on walls, old huntin pictures, skins etc; door s R and L U neat but plain. Joe at dresser up L, fixing necktie. Toby sits R of table C looks at Joe.

Toby

What's her name Joe?

Joe

What do you mean? (brush hair)

Toby

Who's the gal you're fixin up fer?

Joe

I aint fixin up fer no girl.

Toby

Taint just cause I'm here, that yer currin yourself like you were a thoroughbred horse is it?

Joe

Nope. (fix tie)

Toby

This here cabin (looks) is fixed up a heap nicer 'n it used to be. Don't reckon thats jest to please ME neith r, is it?

Joe

Hops.

Toby

Pa and me figgered, maybe Lucille had somethin' to do with it.

Joe

(X ts to mantle fills and lights pipe) Maybe she has, and maybe she hasn't.

Toby

We'd sure like ter know fer sartin.

Joe

Don't let it bother you none.

Toby

(irritated) Doggone it, we can't help worryin'. You haint been up to Lucille's house fer the past two weeks, and we know they's something the matter.

Joe

(indifferent) Got any idea what it is?

Toby

I giggered it was cause yer in love with h.r, an had quarrell. Pa says love and quarells go together.

Joe

We aint quarrelld.

Toby

(very sweet) Then why aint ye been up thar?

Joe

Too busy. (X behind table clean pipe)

Toby

Doing what?

Joe

Working on my invention and studyin.

Toby

What are ye studyin'?

Joe

Books, reading ritmetic grammer and physeligy (hold up book)

Toby

Yess physeligy teach you to shave three ti es a week and brush

your hair every fifteen minutes, so's to make yourself look handsome.

Joe

(sits L of table C) I reckon so.

Toby

When I look at othe male critters, I allus think ma had an awful grudge agin pa.

Joe

(studyin book) Why do you think that?

Toby

If she hand't, she wouldn't never had presented him with anyting that looked like me.

Joe

(ay book on table X L) It aint looks that make a man.

Toby

If it was, I's never been able to get past the cradle age. (rise) Say Joe, can I sleep here tonight?

Joe

(seated L) Sure. But why don't you sleep at home?

Toby

Pa and me aint on speakin terms today.

Joe

Why not?

Toby

He's humbled my pride, brung grief to my heart, and mighty nigh made a wreck of my physical form.

Joe

How?

Toby

With a buggy whip. (earnest) Say when it comes to laying a buggy whip on a feller with spirit and understanding, pa aint sufferin' with no paralysis in his arms.

Joe

What did he whip you for?

Toby

You know there was a partyup at Sy Netters last night?

Joe

Yes.

Toby

I didn't get no invite, but I thought I'd go up and peek in the window and see what was goin' on. The settin' room was full of pretty gals and homely men, pa was the bst lookin man there, so you kin judge what others looked like. Pa was grinnin' and perloverin and evrbody was having a great time, till something happened.

Joe

What was it?

Toby

(serious) Well sir, I happened to be carryin' a little box in one hand and pa's old black cat in the other.

Joe

What was in the box, Toby?

Toby

(innocent) Not ing but mic as I sorta leaned in the windy ter get an eye full, the lid coss offen thet box, and the mice went scamperin among all thim gals, the old balck cat happened to see the mice about that time, and the stuff was all off.

Joe

Scared 'em all, I reckon.

Toby

(bluster) Scared! Gee goosh, I seen more perty glas do the high jump in two minutes then I'll see agin in all my life. When it was all over

pa was lying on the sofa with a gla stannin' on his neck, and another in the middle of his back. Matilda Weatherwax fainted, and Natty Perkins was standing on top of the organ

Joe

Toby, I sometime s think the spirit of the devil is in you.

Toby

(dejectedly) Pa must have thought so too, cause he tried his deendest to knock it out of me (brighter) But I didn't come here to tell you that.

Joe

(e--What did you come fer?

Toby

(importaant) Business matter. (X C) Can you lend me the loan of a dollar?

Joe

Sure, what do you want with it. (digs up)

Toby

I wanta pay Aunt Milly the dollar I borrowed from her to pay Zeke Stebbins the dollar borrowed from him to laon to Sy Matters so he could pay back the dollar he borrowed from Deacon Snedgrass to pay Parson Jones the dollar, he borrowed from pa to pay for the ice cream Matilda Weatherwax eat at the sociable.

Joe

Here's the dollar. (grins)

Harry

(knock D L)

Toby

(in alarm) If thats pa, tell him the last time you saw me, I was plum heart broken, and floating down the river breathing my last. (exit R)

Joe

(opens door L Harry enters down L looks about) Looking fer someone?

Harry

I thought I might find Scott here.

Joe

He's not been here this evening.

Harry

(sits L) I'll wa t a few minutes.

Joe

I can't see that theres any reas why you sho ld come here. (suspicious look) Unless you got some business with him.

Jarry

I have.

Joe

Business you can't transact in the presence of his mother and sister?

Harry

Doesn't concern them in the least.

Joe

Seein' the three o' em are sorta partners in everything I figger that what concerns one, is some business of the other two.

Harry

'nasty smile) We differ in our ideas of business methods.

Joe

Jest about as the burglars effortst d ffer with those of an honest man.

Harry

(pointedly) If I were you, I wouldn't say much about honesty. You paractically stole \$5000 00 from me.

Joe

(smiles) I don't see how you figger it that way.

Harry

You accepted the money and then double crossed me.

Joe

(pleasant) I carried out our bargain. You said you wanted me to kill them sheep afore the folks could take 'em to market (pause) Wasn't that it

Harry

Certainly.

Joe

I wanted to be honest with them, and you, at the same time. When I bought them sheep, it made me the owner and give me the right to kill 'em, and at the same time prevented the folks from taking 'em to market (dry smile) You know, you didn't say for me not to buy 'em.

Harry

(sore) You knew what I meant.

Joe

Well, when I do anything for a man, I allus try to do jest what he says he wants done, and not what he might mean.

Harry

You have \$200.00 of my money, what are you going to do with it?

Joe

Use it to get my invention started.

Harry

And the sheep?

Joe

Kill 'em if ye say so, cause I want to be as honest with you as with other folks.

Harry

(disgust) Yer carrying honesty to a damn fine point! (move L)

Joe

(pleasantly) a heap finer than you'll ever be able to see in yerself.

Harry

Well, you can do as you like with them I'm done with the affair.

Joe

(X to table) I'm right glad you let me out of that part of the bargain because I'd sure hate to kill the innocent things.

Harry

Why?

Joe

If it hadn't been for them, I wouldn't ave two hundred dollars, and Aunt Milly wouldn't o' had the money to pay off that note, due tomorrow aint it?

Harry

Yes.

Joe

(sit R of table laughs) You know I can't help but laugh every time I think of you.

Harry

What's so amusing about me (sarcastic)

Joe

Its kinda funny when a man uses his own money to help apy for someting he trying to steal. (X up)

Harry

(X R impatient) From the way in which they treat me, I judge you have't told them anything.

Joe

(light pape) Nope.

Harry

(sarcastic) Thanks for your consideration.

Joe

Ye needn't thank me (X down L of table) it wasn't for no thought of you I've kept still.

Harry

Of whom had you thought?

Joe

Your sister and Scott. It might cause them unhappiness if they knew what a skunk you are.

Harry
I'm surprised that you should think of Scott's happiness after him
telling you to stay away from their house.

Joe
(pause---then quick) How do you know, twas him told me?

Harry
(smiles) He confessed it to me, but not until after I let him know I
was aware of certain bits of unpleasant gossip going the rounds about
you and Lucille.

Joe
(pointed) So YOU know that too?

Harry
(carefully) The town's star gossipers happen to be old friends of mine.
(X lean over table) You called me a skunk.

Joe
(carelessly) The first time I meet a skunk I'll apologize to him for
makin' the comparison.

Harry
Are you any better? Is it worse for me to pull a crooked business deal
than for you to ruin a girl's reputation?

Joe
(heatedly) I was ignorant of what folks were sayin', and I'm keepin' away
from there, so as to protect her good name.

Harry
(intensely) You stay away from her home, but entice her to visit
your cabin at night.

Joe
(anger) Say that agin, and I'll tear out your lyin' tongue.

Harry
(step back) If you don't entice her here, she comes of her own free will.

Joe
She don't come here at all.

Harry
You might fool some, but you can't pull the wool over my eyes. I've
seen her on two different occasions coming to this cabin, between eight
and nine o'clock at night.

Joe
(suppressed intensity) (X to Harry who X's R alarmed) Carson, I'm going
to kill you if you say another word that means disrespect to her
(pause) D'Ye know which way you come in?

Harry
(impetuously) Certainly

Joe
That's the quickest way out.

Harry
(indifferently) In fact, its the ONLY way out, is it not?

Joe
It is---unless you want to go thru the window.

Harry
(pretend indifference, but register fear/ I'll go by way of the door
(X's L watching Joe)

Joe- Scott
(knock D L Joe X's D L opens it) (Harry L C Scott enters nervous,
X's past Harry up C)

Harry
I want to talk to you. (puts hands on Scott's shoulder)

Joe
So do I. (pull Harry facing him L) and I reckon my business with him
is more important than yours (push Harry L) Git out. (shut D L turn
to Scott)

to
Joe, I don't understand such actions (down R of table)

Joe
"here's a lot of things you don't understand Sit down (command) (Scott
quite amazed) What business dealings have you had with Carson?

Scott
(presentfully) I don't like the tone you use, and I'm not a child to
be commanded in any such manner.

Joe
(look gentler) Maybe I did speak a little rough like, but I'm a bit riled
Come now, tell me what business dealings you've had with him, that you
can't speak of in the presence of your mother and sister?

Scott
(surprised) Do you know that I have any such dealings?

Joe
I got that much out of Carson. He said you was coming here to talk to
me, and I reckon he'd like to have prevented it.

Scott
(nervous) I don't know why he should want to do that.

Joe
"either do I, right now, but if you'll tell me what you want to talk
to me about, maybe I kin see his reason.

Scott
(uncertain how to proceed) You know its been our ambition to build a
hotel?

Joe
Yes.

Scott
But we haven't had the money. Since Polly and I have been engaged
Harry has been interested in our welfare and---and well he showed me
a way to make money.

Joe
How?

Scott
By speculation. That's how I got rich and when I thought of mother and
Lucille, and what riches we'd mean to them I---I thought it my duty
to do all I could for them.

Joe
And have you speculated?

Scott
Yes. I gave Harry the money; and--

Joe
Where did you get the money?

Scott
(nervous) It was what we had saved up to pay that note.

Joe
(almost fiercely) You mean you robbed your mother and sister of their home?
You've stolen their money and made yourself a thief?

Scott
You shan't say that about me. (rise angrily) I've never thought about
myself in this. Everything I've done's been for them, and I haven't
robbed them of their home for Harry will cancell that note.

Joe
How do you know he will?

Scott
He told me he would. He'd do it for Polly's sake, if for nothing else--
because he wants me to have everything for her.

Joe
(look steadily at him) If you're so confident of this, why do you come to
me? Why are you so worried about it?

Scott
I---I---don't know I---I just felt that I wanted to talk to you about it.

(shows confidence) B t Harry says its a l right, and I'm too much of a hurry--he says it takes a little time to get results.

Joe

If he was honest about this, he wouldn't be afraid of your mother and Lucille knowin'.

Scott

Oh-y He wanted me to surprise them with a check for my profits.

Joe

Oh you'll surprise them all r ght, but there won't be any profits
Ca sends nothing but a thief and a rook.

Scott

(resentful) How can you say that bout him when he gave you three hundred for a start in life? Thats what made me finally decide to let him invest the money. (Joos shows surprise) If he d do that for you, he'd be square with me.

Joe

(leans against front table) Then I'm to blame for gettin you into this.

Scott

(surprised) How so?

Joe

I ought to have told everything. That money wasn't no present. (Scott amazed) He paid me \$500.00 to kill your sheep so that you folks wouldn't have enough money to pay that note, and I turned the tables on him he p cked you for the victim. You walked right into the trap he set. and now he's robbing you fo everything you've got.

Scott

You swear that this is the truth?

Joe

Yes.

Scott

(wild w th rage) I'll kill him (rushes for D L) (Joe siezes him and forces him back into chair)

Joe

(excited) No you won't.

Scott

Let me go. (tries to free himself)

Joe

You shan't leave here till you promise you'll do no killin'.

Scott

He's got no right to live, let me go (struggle)

Joe

I aint goin' to let you get yourself hanged fer murder. You shan't bring such disgrace on your mother and Lucille, and---

Scott

(agitated) Mother---Lucille---what will they think of me? I c n't face them I can't. (drops head on arms on table)

Joe

(pauses thoughtful hands on Scott's shoulder) We've got to protect you and save them in some way They must never know what you have done. If theydid, it would break their hearts.

Scott

Theres no way out of it. (looks up in despair.

Joe

Yes, there is.

Scott

How---how? (rise clutches arms) My God! Joe, tell me how.

Joe

D d you give Carson the check for the money?

Scott

I drew out the cash and gave it to him.

Joe

How much?

\$1000
 Scott
 Joe
 (pause decided) Then we've got to get a thousand dollars afore morning.
 Scott
 Impossible!
 Joe
 I won't argue that point, cause right now I don't see how ay getin't it.
 (pause) But its got to be had s me way (Aunt and Polly knock D L)
 Scott
 (nervous starts)
 Joe
 Pull yourself together, and don't let nobody see theres anything wrong
 (open D L) Come (to Scott) its Aunt Milly and Polly
 Aunt
 (after D L followed by Polly) "ell well (X s down L) Aint this a
 scandalous time of night to be callin on folks (Polly X's to Scott
 R)
 Polly
 We're goin'tup to Mr. Netters.
 Aunt
 (to Joe) She's right sick and asked that I should come up there, and
 sit a part of the night.
 Polly
 As we had to pass your cabin, Aunt Milly asked to stop.
 Joe
 (l of table) I'm sure glad you did. Won't you sit down? (they sit R and L
 Aunt
 Only for a minute. I'm nigh t skered out, land sakes alive an old fogey
 like myself aint got a bit of business out after dark.
 Polly
 She kep't stumbling all the time.
 Aunt
 But Iwad determined to make it, cause I wanted to see you and Scott
 together.
 Joe
 What fer?
 Aunt
 I jest wanted ter ask you both if you'd had any hard words.
 Scott
 Why mother, what makes you thi k that?
 Aunt
 Joe aint been to see us in two weeks.
 Polly
 (to Scott) And every time we mentioned it in your presences, you try to
 change the subject.
 Joe
 Scott and me's the best of friends.
 Polly
 There is something been worryin Scott, the last few days, and we thought
 that possibly you had quarrelled (Scott nervous)
 Joe
 I reckon you folks only imagine Scott was worryin'.
 Aunt
 It aint imagination when Scott don't act like himself.
 Polly
 (to Joe) He isn't as happy as he was. He seems to have something on
 his mind. (to Scott) Tell me what it is.
 Scott
 Its all right. Polly, don't worry about me. (X's down R)

Polly

I can't help it (X's to him R) I want to share sorrows as well as joys w. you.

Joe

(pleasantly), Scott aint got no sorrows.

Polly

(to Joe) Something has happened or ther e wouldn't be such a change in him. (hand on Scott) Won't you tell me what it is?

Aunt

It aint treatin Lucille and me right, and keepin' still aint trustin Polly like you ought to.

Polly

It makes me very unhappy, Scott.

Joe

(smiling) I reckon cause love is bline, that you can't see what troubles him.

Polly

(surprised) What do you mean

Joe

You're engaged to him and an engaged-at-sea- man has something to think about I reckon

Polly

Well, if just being engaged to him worreis him I wonder wh t marriage will do (look at Scott)

Joe

(raise hand in mock despair) Lord only knows. (serious) Scott wants to do as well as he can.

Scott

Of course.

Joe

(to Polly) Considerin' the differen ee tween what you've been used to havein and what he'll be able to give you, it aint no wonder he worries a little.

Polly

Its happiness I want not luxury if I have you, thats all I ask.

Joe

(to Scott) Now that ought to make a man happy enough. To throw stones at his grandmother.

Polly

And if that is all that worreis you the sooner you forget it, the happier I will be

Scott

I'll try not to think of it any more (smiles faintly)

Aunt

(rises) Now you children run along up home.

Polly

Oh I must got with you up to Mrs. Wetters.

Aunt

You'd be a heap sight happier with Scott.

Joe

I'll see that Aunt Milly won't have to go alone.

Polly

(X to aunt sweetly) If you really don't mind, I'll drop you right here.

Aunt

Run along. (pat of affection Polly X's up L) and be sure you take the longest way round.

Polly

(hand out to Scott who crosses to her L) Come on, Scott. (exit L Scott in D turns to Joe)

Joe

Scott you jest fergit Everything but Polly a' I see you in the morning.

Scott

Good night. (exit L)

Joe

Good night.

Aunt

(rise as Joe X's C) Joe, you might fool so ly, but you can't fool Scott's mother. It aint her Scott's worrying about. If it was, I'd be the first one he'd come to in his trouble. Instead of bein first, I'm last, and it aint like my boy.

Aunt- Joe

Aunt Milly, I reckon they's no use trying to keep it from you its me Scott's ~~no~~ worrying about. I've got to do a certain thing right soon and Scott knows it He's wonderin if I'll come out all right.

Aunt

(relieved) I aint got no right to pry into your affairs, Joe, and I'll sa no more about it. If its right and best fer you to do this thing you're wanting to do, the Lord will provide a way.

Joe

(reverently) I don't reckon a man like me's got much influence with the Lord. Would you mind askin Him to s ow me the way?

Aunt

Yes, Joe I will.

Judge

(enter L downcast and grieived X's down L C) Howdy folks.

Aunt

(pleasantly) Evenin' Judge.

Joe

You're lookin kinda down in the mouth, Judge.

Judge

I'm in a heap of trouble.

Aunt

What peers to be the matter?

Judge

I'm lookin' fer Toby (serious till Tob enters then angry)

Aunt

Since comin to think of it, I aint seen him all day. What do you suppose has become of him?

Judge

(nervous wipes brow with hankerchief) I don't k ow. Him and me had a little setto last night---and he threatned to kill himself.

Aunt

(X's to Judge C) You don't mean it.

Judge

I was so tarnell mad, I told him I wished he would, but I didn't mean it. I---I didn't kow what I was sayin' (pause wipes tears) If I had him back a live and happy, I'd never say a harsh word to him as long as I live. (wipes eyes) ((Aunts hand on his arm in sympathy)

Joe

(X R and opens door) Come out (they turn to Joe)

Toby

(enters R X's down R) (Judge sore)

Judge

(stare a second very an ry) Drat your ornery hid (shakes cane)

Aunt

Judge!

Judge

Where you been all day? (X's jear him R)

Toby

(serious) Settin' on the river bank & decidin.

Judge

Decidin' what?

Tob

(dejected) "hen and where to end it all.

Aunt

Now Tob you aren't goin to do anything rash are you?

Toby

(dejected) Don't know how rash it would be but I'm sure goin' to sever my connection with this wicked world and pa.

Judge

(shakes fist) Jest let me catch you doing any self killing and I'll tan your hide worse I did last night.

Toby

(shakes head sadly) Pa it aint in the power of human hands to bust me up worse than you did last night. The more I thi k of it, the more humiliated I am. I jest can't live and face folks no longer.

Judge

(kindly) Now Toby---

Toby

(draws away R) Taint no use plaverin me, cause I can't see no more joy in livin' I'm goin' to end it right here now (puts revolver quick to head) (Aunt screams and turns L)

Judge

(great alarm) Toby!

Joe

(sharply) Drop that gun (steps towards him)

Toby

(holds position) "hey's just two things that'll keep me from ending my mad career.

Judge

(anxious) what are they Toby ?

Toby

You got to say you're sorry for floggin me.

Judge

(turns L) I aint sorry.

Toby

Don't make no difference you got to say so anyway.

Judge

(turns to Toby undecided) O (Toby gun at temple speaks quick angry) Dog blast it, I'm sorry.

Toby

(quick and decided) Now you got to give me five dollars.

Joe

Don't you do it, Judge, he won't kill himself.

Judge

(shakes head in doubt takes bill from purse) He might cause he aint got no better sense besides, its a heap sight cheaper to buy him off than it is to bury him. (gives Money and Toby grins) Now give me that pistol. (snatches it Toby is L C Judge looks at him amazed and sore) Why this thing aint loaded and it aint got no hammer or trigger.

Toby

(bluster), Gee gosh, don't you thi k I got more sense than to fool with a regular pistol? (looks at money)

Joe

He sure flim flammed you that time, Judge.

Toby

(X's to Aunt L) Here's a weddin' present fer ye, Aunt Milly. (offers money Judge amazed aunt stares and unconsciously takes money)

Aunt

Why I aint a goin to get married.

Toby

Y
es, you are but you donSt know it.

Scott
Good night. (exit L)

Joe
Good night.

Aunt
(rise as Joe X's C) Joe, you might fool Polly, but you can't fool Scott's mother. It aint her Scott's worrying about. If it was, I'd be the first one he'd come to in his trouble. Instead of bein first, I'm last, and it aint like my boy.

Aunt- Joe
Aunt Milly, I reckon they's no use trying to keep it from you its me Scott's ~~no~~ worrying about. I've got to do a certain thing right soon and Scott knows it He's wonderin if I'll come out all right.

Aunt
(relieved) I aint got no right to pry into your affairs, Joe, and I'll sa, no more about it. If its right and best fer you to do this thing you're wanting to do, the Lord will provide a way.

Joe
(reverently) I don't reckon a man like me's got much influence with the Lord. Would you mind askin Him to s ow me the way?

Aunt
Yes, Joe I will.

Judge
(enter L downcast and grieived X's down L C) Howdy folks.

Aunt
(pleasantly) Evenin', Judge.

Joe
You're lookin kinda down in the mouth, Judge.

Judge
I'm in a heap of trouble.

Aunt
What peers to be the matter?

Judge
I'm lookin' for Toby (serious till Tob enters then angry)

Aunt
Since comein to think of it, I aint seen him all day. What do you suppose has become of him?

Judge
(nervous wipes brow with hankerchief) I don't know. Him and me had a little setto last night---and he threatened to kill himself.

Aunt
(X's to Judge C) You don't mean it.

Judge
I was so tarnell mad, I told him I wished he would, but I didn't mean it, I---I didn't know what I was sayin' (pause wipes tears) If I had him back a live and happy, I'd never say a harsh word to him as long as I live. (wipes eyes) ((Aunts hand on his arm in sympathy)

Joe
(X R and opens door) Come out (they turn to Joe)

Toby
(enters R X's down R) (JUDGE sore)

Judge
(stare a second very an ry) Drat your ornery hid (shakes cane)

Aunt
Judge!

Judge
Where you been all day? (X's fear him R)

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(serious) Settin' on the river bank & decidin.

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Toby

(bluster), Gee gosh, don't you think I got more sense than to fool with a regular pistol? (looks at money)

Joe

He sure flim flammed you that time, Judge.

Toby

(X's to Aunt L) Here's a weddin' present for ye, Aunt Lilly. (offers money Judge-amazed aunt stares and unconsciously takes money)

Aunt

Why I aint a goin to get married.

Toby

Yes, you are but you don't know...

Aunt

'smiles) Who am I goin' to marry?

Toby

Pa (Judge nervous) Him and me's keepin' it a secret, cause we wanted t o surprise you.

Judge

(R) You blasted fool.

Aunt

(reproachful) You re a reg lar heathn.

Toby

Don't blame me its the way pa raised me (X's to Judge' I broke the ice fer you, now you got to wade out yerself. (X's D'L) Remember pa that a widder at the alter is worth two in a church pew. So long. (grin exit D L)

Aunt

(confused rise) I must be g in up to Mrs. "etters (X's up L)

Judge

(X's to her) Guess I'll walk up with you, I ant to apologzie to you fer what Toby was a sayin. (open D L for her)

Aunt

(to Joe) Want to read a chapter in the bible, Joe? (he takes it from pocket) and remember I'll be askin HMa to show you the way (smiles, exit D L)

Judge

Good night, Moe. (exit D L)

Joe

(behind table C). Good night. (pause open bible and read) "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want (pause) I want a tho sand dollars afore morning and I don t see now way.

Lucille

(appears in window softly with slight fear) Joe. (he turns) Are you alone?

Joe

Yes.

Lucille

I'm coming in. (disappears)

Joe

(pause pulls shade and opens D L Lucille enters) I'm mighty glad to see you, but you shouldn't come at night like this if any one should see you, they might thi k bad of you.

Lucille

(down L C) I k ow it.

Joe

It is too big a risk you are taking.

Lucille

If I'm not willing to risk something to help you, my friendship would not be worth havin, and I said- -

Joe

But I can't let you risk your good name. You mustn't come here no more like this.

Lucille

I had to come. I couldn't get an explanation in any other way.

Joe

(embarrassed). Explanation of what?

Lucille

You're not coming to study with me as we had agreed, I've asked Scott and mother but nister one will tell me anything.

Joe

(pause with back turned) When I didn't come you ought to have let it go thinkin' I didn't mean what I said.

Lucille

Can you truthfully say you didn't mean it? That you were only joking

about wanting to amount to som thing, for the sake of some girl of your dreams? (faces him and X's to talbe hankie in hand)

Joe

I did mean it, but things come up so's I c uldn't. (looks away)

Lucille

Are you going to give up all thought of winning her?

Joe

No.

Lucille

Then you don't intend coming up to let me help you?

Joe

I reckon I'll be up there afore long.

Lucille

(picks up book drops hankie Joe picks it up) Thank you. (looks at book then at him) School books.

Joe

I've been studyin a little.

Lucille

Joe, you don t mean to let me hlep you. (pays book down) You're going to right youf way alone. That's why you have these.

Joe

Yes.

Lucille

After having accepted my offer of hlep, don't you t ink I am entitled to an explanation, after such a sudden refusal.

Joe

(nervous) Yes, but I can't give it.

Lucille

Why not?

Joe

It would make you unhappy and I don't want to do that.

Lucille

(leaves kerchief on table) Has that girl anything to do with it?

Joe

You mean the one I dream of winn ng some day?

Lucille

Yes.

Joe

(steals glance at her, looks away) Yep, she's causing it all. Its on account of her I can't go up to your house.

Lucille

Who is she?

Joe

(pause then decided) I won't tell nobody her name till I'm fit to ask her to be my wife. (noise off L C. Somebodys outside better step in here. (X's R) No telling who it is, and I don t want no scandal monger seein' you here al ne with me this time of night? (gently urges her off R X's D L pause, a knock at D L opens D L)

Harry

(en ers L and looks around) Keep I didn't intrude. (X's down L)

Joe

There is nobody in the world I'd rather see than you right now. (X to mantle for tobacco)

Harry

I don't understand your sudden change in manner. (X's to table)

Joe

I won't keep you in suspense very long. (loads pipe)

Harry

I'm glad of that, for I ate anxious moments (sees kerchief looks at Joe who isn't looking searches for mark on it, quickly pockets it X's L) (Joe crosses down R)

Joe
Carson, I've had a talk with Scott. (stamps tobacco in pipe)

Harry
That doesn't interest me at all.

Joe
But it does me.

Harry
You'll do well to keep you nose out of other people's business.

Joe
(quietly lights- looks at pipe) I never put my nose into other people's business less'n I'm perty sure I can pull it out agin with something stickin' to it.

Harry
(shifting revolver from one pocket to the other) What do you expect to find sticking to it this time?

Joe
I'm a h pping it will be a thousand dollars.

Harry
Soorry to e, DISAPOINT YOU? BUT THERE IS NOTHING DOING.

Joe
(puts pipe in pocket with determination) Cancel that note like you promised Scott you'd do , and it will answer the same purpose.

Harry
Again I must decline. (X's up L)

Joe
You know what losing the place will mean to them.

Harry
In business matters, I make it a point not to consider anyone but myself

Joe
Won't you even consider Polly and her happiness? This might cause a break between her and Scott.

Harry
Nothing would please me better. (X's down L) The little fool has no busin to marry a pauper weasling like him, besides his sister is not a woman, I'd care to have Polly associate with.

Joe
(angered) I've warned you once not to say anything disrespectful about Lucille.

Harry
Her actions speak louder than many words I could say. You lied when you said she had not been coming here, for she's hiding in the cabin this very minute. (starts D R Joe stops him)

Joe- Joe
You couldn't swear you'd seen her here.

Harry
But I did see some woman coming to this cabin.

Joe
(quietly) Did you stop to think it might have been Polly instead of Lucille?

Harry
(intense) Open that door (R) Ask the woman to come out, and we'll see who it is.

Joe
Supposin I tell ye thar aint no woman thar.

Harry
I wouldn't believe you. (X's R as he passes Joe grabs his L arm)

Joe
You're not going in there.

Harry
Then I'll find some other way (fire revolver close to D R Lucille screams Joe throws Harry 's coat over his head is back of Harry

Carson, if you try to come out afore I say you kin, I'll kill you as
I would a snake. (turns to Lucille who has watched the struggle)
Beat it for home as fast as ever you can. (gently urges her off L,
close door & starts D R stop on seeing nurse opens it amazed) MONEY. (X to talbe
drops a bunch of money on table C opens bible and reads) "The Lord
is my shepherd, I shall not want!"

Note: This finish must be absolutely reverential.

ACT THREE
SAME AS ACT ONE FOLLOWING MORNING.

Aunt
(discovered at rise, seated down R Lucille stand up. C looks off) Do you see Judge Teeters a coming, Lucille?

Lucille
No.

Aunt
Pears like he's been gone a long time.
Lucille
(Xing down L) You know he has to do a regular amount of talking even after his business is transacted.

Aunt
Yes, its a way of his.
Polly
(enters from house) Lucille. (X L) Did I leave a handkerchief in you room last night?

Lucille
I think not at least I don't remember havin g seen it.

Polly
Then I must have lost it.
Judge
(enter L U with long envelop jovial X's down C) Mornin folks everybody happy?

Aunt
(smiles) I reckon you can find some of us happy all of the time. Judge.

Judge
Um---reckon so---reckon so (X R)

Polly
I don't believe anything could make Aunt Milly unhappy.

Aunt
Land sakes a live, I'm unhappy sometimes, jest like other folks.

Polly
But you never show it.

Aunt
(smiles) I've learned that sa smile is worth a brerell of tears any day, and its a heap more comfortin.

Judge
That's the reason ev ry man, woman and child comes to you when they're in trouble.

Toby
(enters L U through gate brisk business manner) Lowdy folks, hody pa (grin at Aunt)

Judge
By jinge ginger, you will carry your familiarity a mite too far one of these days. What do you want here?

Toby
Got a telegraft for Aunt Milly (X and give to her)

Aunt
(nervous) Taint news of nobody dying is it?

Lucille
(move down interested) Maybe its from Uncle Howah.

Toby
(R C) Gee gosh, he's too stingy t spend money for a telegraft.

Lucille
(indignant) He isn't stingy..

Aunt
He's jest savin' (opens mess-ge nervously)

Toby
(bluster) yes hes so aggoned saving he eats soup three times a day to

save wearin' out his store teeth.

(surprised and reads) Why its from some New York city folks what had dinner here a couple of weeks ago. (Lucille X's and gets telegram Toby X L)

Lucille
(look at telegram) They are coming up here to spend the rest of the summer and want accomadations with us.

Toby
(to Judge) Now you can begin to see the results of havin automobile tires bust at the right time, and place. (to Lucille) It pays to be one of them op-to mis tic al--si ke logic--ers-

Polly
(to aunt) You will have to hurry and get the new hotel built so you can take care of all the people who want to come here.

Judge
(suddenly) Jumpin cat fish, that reminds me of somethin' (gives envelope to Aunt) Here's the deed and abstract for your property.

Aunt
Everything settled up all right, Judge?

Judge
(proud) 't is as a fiddle, I got 'em recorded and now, they aint nobody kin take the place away from you.

Lucille
It is an awful load lifted from our shoulders.

Aunt
(to Judge) Don't you think these would be safer in the bank?

Judge
Um---spect they would (takes envelope pockets it) I'll leave 'em there for you as I go back.

Scott
(appear in door) Mother, wheres my fishin tackle?

Aunt
You left it on the piano, and I took it to your room.

Scott
(smiles at Polly) Be out in a minute, Polly. (exit in house)

Judge
(to aunt) Guess I'll go talk a little business with Scott. You know we got to arrange so a way of getting money to build the new hotel
-they- (exit H)

Toby
(to aunt) ~~What a head for business pa's got?~~ Ever notice what a head for business pa's got?

Aunt
I've got a lot of confidence in his judgement of things.

Toby
(important) Oh his judgements are all right cause I've worked hard to bring him to his present standard of inefficiency. I've been thinking what a fine business manager he'd make, for your new hotel. (Polly and Lucille look amazed at each other) That is him and me together.

Polly
What would you have to do with it?

Toby
Pa and me always work together. I furnish the brains, and pa does the work. (to aunt) Cause if you hired him and me for wages we'd come high, but they's a easy way of geting around that.

Aunt
How so, Toby?

Toby
You kin marry pa and get his work for nothing, and I'll furnish the brain of the family, at one-half price.

Lucille
Toby you're always thining of marriage (laugh)

Toby
Don't blame me, its the way pa raised me. Love and marriage kinda runs in our family espceially on pa's side---but theres a heap of difference in him and me, when it comes to pickin out women.

Polly
(smiles) Is there, Toby?

Toby
Yes, pas awful easy suited. (grin at Aunt she turns half way embarrassed)
He takes the slow and easy goin' kind--thats so gentle and well harnessed
broke they'll stand wihout hitchin---thems that sort a like Aunt Milly.

Aunt
(disgust) Toby, will-you shut up?

Toby
(polite) Yes'm. (to others) I'm different.

Polly
That so?

Toby
I like them city kind of girls them thats so wild full of life you gotta keep 'em hobbled all the time, so 's they won't run off and bust up the matrimonial harness.

Lucille
(smiles) Toby, I'm afraid that your association with those New York Summer resorters has caused you to pick up some dangerous ideas.

Toby
(X 's R C important) When I go to New York, I'm going to pick moren' a dangerous idea---I'm going to pick up a young and untamed female, and bring her back to the village.

Aunt
(surprise) Toby, you aint thin in ' of goin't to New York?

Toby
(decided) I'm doin' moren' thin in. I'm goin. If pa and me's going to manage your new hotel, I gotta know som thing about the business so I am goin to New York and get a hotel job so's I can learn all about 'em.

Lucille
Then will you leave Toby?

Toby
This evenin'. (pause look around speak quickly) Guess I might as well commence kissin you all good bye. (start for Polly)

Polly
(hands up move trifle away) Nothing doing, Toby. (laugh Toby does the same to Lucille)

Lucille
Wait until train time.

Toby
Better take 'em while you got the chance. When it comes time fer us to leave they'll be so many girls kissin us good bye, you might be left out.

Lucille
(seriously) What do you mean by US?

Toby
Joe and me.

Aunt
(surprise) You don't mean that Joe's goin' to New York?

Toby
I ep---him and me made up our minds this morning Sudden got any Campfire in the house.

Aunt
Now what are you wantin of campfire?

Toby
I'm

They
I'm goin to break the news to pa and ask him for a--theese-- hundred dollars
(X to house) Better come along, and bring him to when he faints (exit
in house)

Aunt
Landsakes I never saw such a boy in all my life. (exit H)

Polly
(laugh) I believe that will be good. I don't want to miss it. (run in
H) (Lucille has been very quiet since hearing Joe is going X up toward
H. Ha.)

Joe
(enter L U through gate liesurely, hat off when see Lucille) Mornin'
Lucille.

Lucille
Good morning, Joe. (they X down C) I wasn't expecting you.

Joe
That I'd better come up and see if this is yourn (hanks, from pocket)
Lucille
(look at it and take it) Yep it is, where did you find it.

Joe
(L C) Layin' in the path up from my cabin (move stop L) Carson been here
Lucille
Not this morning do you think he knows I was in the cabin last night?

Joe
(smiles. He knows some woman screamed when he fired that shot, and
he aint got no poreof who it was. Don't you do no mournin over it.

Lucille
I can't help worryin' a little, when I think how much evil might be made
of innocent act.

Joe
I don't think you'll hear any more about it.

Lucille
(hesitatingly) Toby tells us you are goin' away.

Joe
Ye---e es-
(moved down L)
Lucille

For long?

Joe
Until I can make something out of myself. (move to her) If I kin get
away fro where folks know me, and where the sins of my father won't
be followin me, I figger I might have a better chance.

Lucille
I am sure you will.

Joe
And I'm goin' to try and do somthing with my invention.

Lucille
(pause thotful) We'll think of you quite often, Joe.

Joe
(same bus, And I'll be t iakin of you folks (pause) Would it be any
trouble for Aunt Milly and you to write to me a letter, onct in awhile

Lucille
We'll be glad to write---often (pause then softly) Often.

Joe
Ceptin fer Toby I'll be among strangers and---and I wouldn't be surprised
if I got lonesome sometimes.

Lucille
No doubt.

Joe
You folks have been about the my friends I ever had in my life---
and you've been sort of a prop that held me straight. Your letters might
do me a world of good.

(smiles faintly) Lucille

Lucille

You can count on mothers being full of good advise.

Joe

And burn?

Lucille

I'll make them neway as I can. I'll tell all about the marriages and funerals.

Joe

Won't you tell me just a little about yourself?

Lucille

Would that be interesting?

Joe

(earnestly) A heap more'n' funerals.

Lucille

(hesitate as if jealous) Is that other birl the one you want to marry--- is she going to write you.

Joe

(glance at her) She's promised she would.

Lucille

Then perhaps I'd better not, my letters might---might be in the way.

Joe

You permitted me, you'd help me win her (pause) Won't you keep this promi.

Lucille

(reluctant) Yes.

-- Joe Toby

(enter from house blustering followed by Judge) Now pa it aint no use trying to hold me to your apron strings no longer (X R C)

Judge

(wipe face withkerchief) I can understand your wanting to leave m.

Toby

Its ambition pa.

Judge

(wipe tears) I didn't know you had such an ailment.

Toby

(very earnest) Its beenworking on me fer a long time. It keeps a proddin me and shovin me and a boostin. If ambition was dynamite I'd have enough in me to blow up the world.

Judge

You might have enough to blow you up in the world, but you aint got enou to blow one hundred dollars eat of me.

Toby

(rebellious) Then you don't give me your willful co sent to my goin' awa.

Judge

I'll give you anything I got so long as it don't cost me anything.

Toby

Pa, y ambitions makin ' me jump sames if a pitch fork was stickin into m and I just can't stand still when fame and fortune is holding out her arms and beggin me to come into her embrace.

Judge

(to others) That some more of them summer resorts kinder talk.

Toby

I'm a goin' to New York (X 's C) If I have to go on the first car load of hogs that leaves town. Joe's gotta have somebody to kinda look after him, and see that he gets along all right, and I gotta get out of these small towns so's my ideas kin blossom, and bust into big things. (X's up Joe L C) If I don't get to leave same times as you do I'll meet you on Broadway. (X up C)

Judge

Jumpin Ginger where's Broadway?

Toby

In New York, I don't know whethther its a cracker box or a balloon but

but its in New York, and I'll find it. (exit L U thru gate)

Judge

I aint a goin t hold him back (down R)

Joe

(Y up to C) From the way he talks, I kinda think the same's you do.

Judge

And no son of mine -is is goin out of town on a hog train.

Lucille

(down) Will you give him the money?

Judge

No siree, he aint got sense enough to handle money (to Joe R C) I'll give you what money he needs, and you kin dish it out to him in small chunks

Joe

All right, Judge.

Judge

Let him thi k he's dependin on you instead of his dad, and hell be more careful, and it won't hurt him none if you let him get kinda pinched for money, onest in a while.

Joe

I'll do mybest by him, Judge.

Judge

And Joe, kinda keep your eyes peeled for them vampires, city gals and don't let none of them alone with him. Guss I'll run up to the bank and get some money for him (exit L U thru gate quickly)

Scott

(enter from house) Sis will you sew a button on my tan shirt.

Lucille

(X to R) Yes.

Scott

(R C) I put the button needle and thread on the kitchen table.

Lucille

(R C) Where's the shirt?

Scott

I don't know, if you and mother would leave things where I put them, I'd never have any trouble finding them

Lucille

(pleasantly) And if you would only put them where they belong, we would never have any reason for moving them. (exit H)

Scott

Gee, but she's a dandy sister---it makes cold shivers run over me when I think how nearly I came to robbing mother and her of this place.

Joe

(move L) Did you have any trouble in settlin with Carson?

Joe

(follows him L) A little. He seemed to think there might be soethin crooked about our getting the money. I deposited it in the bank and then wrote him a check for \$1000.00/

Joe

I suppose he wondered where you got the money?

Scott

Yes, where did you get the money, Joe?

Joe

(sits L) I had \$200 and the sheep I got from Carson I sold the sheep fo \$300.

Scott

That makes \$500.00 Where did you get the other five hundred?

Joe

I got that from him.

Scott

(surprise) He didn't GIVE it to you?

Joe

Joe
(smiles) I aint got no record of him doin anything like hat.

Scott
Then how did you get it?

Joe
(careless) Oh I don't reckon that makes any difference. If I explained everything it'd bring other folks names in, and thats something I'd jest as soon nobody but me knew anythin about.

Scott
(uneasy) Joe will it get you into any kind of trouble?

Joe
I reckon not, if it does, don't let it worry you none.

Scott
Do you think I'd let you suffer thru any fault of mine?

Joe
I don't see how you'd help yourself, if I kept a shut mouth.

Scott
I'm not a coward, and if you get into trouble over this. I'm going to take the blame myself.

Joe
(on feet) If you do, I'll swear every word you say is a lie. You got a good name in the village and folks trusts you. You've got to keep that reputation for the sake of your mother and Lucille, as well as yourself, I've got nothing, and can't lose much.

Scott
(intense) I won't let you take me for a weakling who hides behind your back.

Joe
I aint lookin for no trouble over this, and if it does come I kin find some way to wiggle out. You kin best help me by keepin quiet.

Polly
(enter from house to Joe) Aunt Milly wants you.

Joe
(smile) I bet she's going to load me up with a lot of home remedies for coughs and colds, and chills, before I go away. (Exit to house, See you later. (exit in H))

Polly
Is the fishing tackle ready?

Scott
Yes.

Polly
(enthusiastic) I put bacon and eggs and everything we need for cooking our supper.

Scott
Got the skillet and coffee pot?

Polly
No sir for I forget these entirely.

Scott
I'd better inspect that camp kit before we start.

Polly
I just feel we'll have a wonderfull romantic time roughing it like savages.

Scott
(enthusiastic) If you like we'll go again tomorrow.

Polly
(suddenly) Do you think we'll see any snakes?

Scott
Hundreds of them.

Polly
(decided) I'm not going, I can't bear to see snakes, bugs or creepy things.

Scott
I believe you'd rather do yours in the parlor.

Polly
I w

Polly
I would if theres going to be snakes.

Scott
where we're going the snakes are tamed.

Polly
Really!?

Scott
Sure, there so tame they'll curl up in your lap and go to sleep.

Polly
Oh-----oooh

Toby
(enter L U listen at gate)

Scott
(tried to scare her) And if you coax them a little they'll curl around your neck---look into your eyes and makes faces at you.

Polly
(hand to neck) (scared shudders) Scott Reynolds, I'm not going a step I'll see snakes in my dreams.

Toby
(bluster) Gee gosh, snakes in your dreams aint nothin---if you're wanting to see snakes, I kin show you---

Polly
I'm not wantint to see or hear of them.

Scott
We're going camping. (to Toby)

Polly
(quick) We are not.

Toby
Ah---he was jest tryin to scare you there aint no snakes down at Bear Creek.

Scott
We're goin down to Rock Falls

Toby
They aint been no fish at Rock falls since Columbus discovered America. Make him take you down to Bear Creek.

Polly
Is the fishing good?

Toby
(enthused) Is it good? Gee gosh, theys been fish caught out there so big they had to send them down to the steel mill to be fired.

Polly
Some fish!

Toby
When you bate a hook, you've got to hide behind a tree.

Polly
What for?

Toby
To keep the fish from jumping out of water, and grabbin the bait afore you get it on the hook, and that aint all---

Polly
What else?

Toby
They stand in line to bite and if one bites out of turn, it starts a fight.

Scott
(smiles) That sounds like propaganda.

Toby
Its jest a sample of my big ideas for advertizing this here summer resort for Aunt Milly when she gets the new hotel started.

Scott
I can almost feel the dollars rolling in right now.

Toby

(sudden) Gee gosh, that reminds me kin you loan me the lend of a dollar.

Scott

Sure, what are you going to do with it (get out money)

Toby

I want to pay Joe the dollar I borrowed from him to pay Aunt Milly the dollar I borrowed from her to pay Zeke Stebbins the dollar I borrowed from him to loan to Sy Nett so he could pay pa---

Scott

Take the money, and tell mēthe rest after you get to New York.

Toby

(take out big roll of bills and add the one) If you folks don't believe I was lying bout how good fishin is on Bear Creek you jest go down there and try it (exit in H)

Rolly

I'll see how soon Lucille will be ready (exit H Scott turns up)

Harry

(enter C from L U sneering manner Scott nervous) Well you slipped one over on me, didn't you.

Scott

(turns down R) If I were you I'd be game about it, and not squeal.

Harry

(X down C) I suppose you thought I'd consider myself whipped and lay low

Scott

I gave you credit for enough shene to know When you have reached the end of your rope (move C)

Harry

I'm ready to stop when I reach the end. (X R)

Scott

You think you have not come to that yet. (X L)

Harry

(C self satisfied) Not at all---last night you didn't have the 1000 to pa the note, this mornin the amount was placed in the bank by you.

Scott

(pause) well?

Harry

I was naturally curious to know where you got it, so I made some investigations.

Scott

Who er

Harry

First at the bank (Scott surprised) your deposit being large and made so early in the morning it was an easy matter for the cashier to identify it, being a particular friend of mine, he allowed me to examine the money

Scott

Why did you want to do that?

Harry

I wanted to see if any of it happened to be money that was in my possession last night.

Scott

(judging) That sounds like an innuination against me.

Harry

(half accusing) A large amount of money, belonging to me mysteriously disappeared last night, some of it was deposited this mornin by you. (pause) Where did you get the money?

Scott

(pause) None of your business. (exit L 2 Harry looks after him start H)

Joe

(enter H) Mornin' Carson.

Harry

(coldly moves L) Good morning.

Joe
(pleasant) You don't seem in none too good a humor.

- Harry
I'm not.

Joe
Business isn't quite as good around here as you expected, is it?

Harry
No! I'm thinking of trying new fields. (indifferently)

Harry. Joe --that's the best idea you've had since you dove
I judge you are thinking of kicking the dust of the village from your heels

Harry Joe
(slight surprise) What makes you think that?

Harry
You sold the sheep this morning.

Joe
Yes, I had a kinda of rush call for money.

Harry
(look steady) From Scott.

Joe
You know better'n' that without askin.

Harry
You didn't get enough from the sale of those sheep to meet his demands.

Joe
No I reckon not.

Harry
I've been wondering where the balance came from.

Joe
If you keep on wondering maybe you'll find out. (Aunt Lucille Polly
Toby enter from R Lucille and Joe and Toby R 1 Aunt 2 corner, Scott
enter L X's to L to Polly Harry L C)

Toby
Good bye folks take care of yourselves and pa--

Judge
(enter L U gate C with sheriff much excited) Itell you sweriff theres
some mistake.

Sheriff
I guess not. (X to Joe R C) I've been wanting to get something on this
bird for a long time.

Joe
What's the matter?

Sheriff
I've got a warrant for your arrest.

Joe
What's the charge?

Sheriff
Robbery.

Joe
And my accuser?

Sheriff
Harry Carson, your charged with robbing him while he was in your cabin
last night.

Lucille
(R of Joe intense) I don't believe it he wouldn't do such a thing.

Joe
(quick to her side) Keep still---they can't prove anything.

Sheriff
I'll get the prooff all right. (draw gat) Hands up!(Joe obey)(he
searches Joe finds nothing)

Joe
You can't find nothing on me.

Sheriff
What did you do with the wallet you lifted from Carson.

Joe
 You folks are bringing the charge I guess its up to you to find the proof
 Harry
 (Y's C) Search the house
 Judge
 (R of him) You'll do nothing of the kind (indignant)
 Sheriff
 Keep out of this. (to Judge)
 Scott
 (indignant) What right have you to search the house?
 Harry
 There was a woman in his cabin last night and she helped to rob me.
 Scott
 What woman?
 Harry
 Our sister. (all look at Lucille)
 Joe
 (indignant) You can't prove Lucille was in my cabin.
 Harry
 I can.
 Joe
 How?
 Harry
 (intense) By something she left in your cabin---something I found--
 (takes hank from R coat pocket held up for all to see) This will prove
 my charge against her.
 Polly
 (L by him quick) You're wrong it proves me guilty, because this---
 (takes hank from Harry) belongs to me. (all stare at her)

CURTAIN

NOTE: When no sheriff, Judge enters with warren
 and slight arrangement of speeches.

SET.

Aunt Milly's New Hotel. Palace arch or elaborate set, large arch R hallway backing. French window C with railing backed by top of garden dr. Arc L with hall way backing piano and stool L of window, bric a brack easy chair L library table books etc; C Easy chair down R Settee R of window jardineers and flowers each end. Cabinet phonograph R of settee wicker chairs in hall way windows opened showing wicker chairs and table electric wall brackets, elaborate furnishing, pictures on wall---instrumental record playing.

NOTE: Can be played on lawn outside of hotel---when played outside
Jude and Aunt enter at rise, start for arch R)

Judge (Sings)

(Sings) (Sings) (Sings) (Sings) (Sings) (Sings) (Sings) (Sings) (Sings) (Sings)

Bell boy

(in distance) Call for Mr. Moreland (calls get nearer) Call for Mr. Moreland (enter L start for arch R)

Judge

(discovered standing at phonograph) You'll find Joe Moreland down in the ball room.

Bell boy

Thank you sir. (exit arch R) (Aunt enter arch R leisurely)

Judge

Well, Aunt Milly, how do you like it (down L)

Aunt

Its most too grand for me, Judge. (X down R)

Judge

Looks like the opening of the new hotel was going to be a big success.

Aunt

I never saw so many folks in all my life and how do they dance. (pause)
But Judge, I do wish they wouldn't do such wiggling.

Judge

(sigh) Aunt Milly, things aint like when you and me was yung. Seems like styles in everything change a lot, and we got to change with them or be called moss backs.

Aunt

I don't reckon I'll be able to change my old fashioned notions about some things. (smiles) But I aint goin to let that interfere with anybody's happiness.

Judge

It seems like you was put on earth for no other reason but to make other folks happy, and sorta lead them into the right path.

Aunt

Judge, you are jest saying that cause you don't know nothin else to talk about.

Judge

No I aint, facts prove that I'm right.

Aunt

What facts?

Judge

There's Joe Moreland for instance? What was he two years ago?

Aunt

Just as good a man as he is tonight, Judge.

Judge

I aint disputin that, but look at the change in him.

Aunt

That's on account of Lucille as well as me, she's encouraged him to try to do big things.

Joe

Who'd a thought two years ago Joe Moreland would co e back here rich and famous?

Aunt

His invention has done that.

Judge

Then look at Harry Carson.

Aunt

(smiles) I reckon I have any influence for good with him

Judge

two years ago he tried to send Joe to jail for robbery when he knowed Joe hand't stole his money.

Aunt

Aint it curious how little t ings will sometimes turn out to be the stumbling block over which big things will fall and tumble, and break to pieces.

Judge

In that case, it was just the fact of two girls getting handkerchiefs mixed.

Aunt

Harry couldn't very well send Joe to jail without blackenin the good name of his sister.

Judge

And thru our influence I believe Harry is bein a good man.

Aunt

He told me this evenin that he's trying his best to right ev rywong he's ever done any man. Judge, theres a heap of joy in livin when you know yo 're bein of some use to other folks as well as yerself.

Judge

Then there is another man you've had influence for good over.

Aunt

Who is that? (H L)

Judge

(proudly) My Toby. (rise) When I look at him, I jest swell up like a toad I'm that proud of him.

Aunt

Two years in New York has made a big change in him.

Judge

(L near her) He's come back here with the all firest lingo, I ever heard, by jingo ginger when he talks to me, I gotta guess at what he means, and just say yes or no trustin to hit it right.

Toby

(enter H L's down R C) Say governor (both smile) There's a million dollar baby doll down in the ball room that wants to give you the once over. (Judge puzzled look at aunt for help she shakes her head he guess)

Judge

Yes?

Toby

(arm on Judge's shoulder) Whant a breeze in with me just like a couple of hight brows.

Judge

(same bus) Turned if I know whther to guess yes or now

Toby

Guess yes.

Judge

(relieved) All right.

Toby

When I lead you up to this chicken---

Judge

I thought you said it was a baby.

To y
Colonel you don't get me, its a girl (Judge and Aunt look at each other)
When I lead you up to her, I'm going to give you a knock down and---

Judge
You jest try knockin me down and I'll give you the dearest tannin you
ever got in your life. (shakes she lder as if ready to tackle Toby)

Toby
I mean I'm going to introduce you.

Judge
I don't know whether to trust you or not.

Toby
(enthused) She's a little fairy that busted the crust off my icy heart,
and made me spill the c-tter thats leadin'us to the Little church around
the corner where the sky pilot will collect five bones and pronounce us
one.

Judge
(bewildered) Look at Toby then to Aunt) Do you know what he means?

Aunt
(shakes head) Church and bones is about the only words that sounds
familiar to me.

Toby
She's goin' to be your daughter-in-law

Judge
Do you mean it?

Aunt
Toby, are you go n to be married fer sure?

Toby
I can't say it' l be sure or not, because theres no guarantee goes with
weddings these days.

Judge
(pleased) and you're goin' to be married (slaps him on back) Sufferin
cat fish.' s ow her to me.

Toby
All right but let me give you a warning.

Judge
What about?

Toby
(enthused) She's the classiest piece of work old mother nature ever
turned out, and when you throw your lamps on her be sure your muffler
is closed, and if you feel yourself skidding throw on the emergency
and let me do the steering.

Judge
(look at aunt puzzled) Must I guess yes or no for this meaning?

Aunt
Lord sakes alive its-beyond me, I'd a heap sight sooner yhear him
say gee gosh dad gun --gol darn.

Toby
(disgust) Oh I've outgrown that low brow stuff. Nothin' but the high
class lingo for me in the future. (takes Judges arm) Come on, dad.

Judge
(hold back) I'm skeered, Toby, if the girls what you say she is.

Toby
(speak old manner as first act) She aint no society stuck up ceptin fer
clothes and looks---she's just as common as pa.

Judge
(delighted) Thats MY TOBY talkin now.

Aunt
Sounds a heap more pleasin and is easier of understandin.

Toby
(up to date manner again) I'll slip you the real dope about her, but I
gna't keep it on the quiet. We're making these summer resorters think

she's a high brow but in real life she's a hash slinger in a feed foundry

Judge
(uncertain of meaning) NO?

Toby

Yes.

Judge
(to aunt) Missed my guess that time.

Bell boy
(off L) Mr. Teeters (Toby and Judge look at each other) Calling for Mr. Teeters.

Judge
Don't the dern fool know we can hear him calling without his tellin us?

Toby
Highbrow hotel stuff dad.

Bell boy
(enter R) Calling for Mr Teeters.

Toby
Which one.

Bell boy
T. Teeters.

Toby
(to Judge) Sounds almost like a titter don't it? (to bellboy) I'm it?

Bellboy
Miss Saunders want you in the ball room (Toby tips him) Thank you sir,
(exit L U)

Toby
Coming, Dad? (turn up)

Judge
No I reckon not. I'd best wait till there aint so many folks around to see me when I meet your future wife.

Toby
All right I'll tell her you're a sly old bird, and want to roost early.
(exit quick Arch R)

Judge
(looks after him thoughtful) My Toby's a goin to get married.

Aunt
Its a habit young folks has got, Judge.

Judge
I'll be left all alone---So tts married, and if Lucille ever gets the same kind of notion---

Aunt
I'll be left all alone too, Judge.

Judge
I reckon so too (pause) Lets take a walk, Aunt Milly (offers arm they go up L) Living alones kinda got its draw backs, Aunt Milly.

Aunt
Yes, but theres somethin in its favor Judge (they exit L U)

Polly
(enter arch R with Scott and Harry all laughing Polly L C) Isn't it just wonderful?

Scott
(R) I can't seem to realize that our dreams have come true

Harry
(C to Scott) Under your management the hotel should make a wonderful success.

Polly
Toby is a human dynamo that pushes things along.

Scott
We've made him sort of assistant manager.

Polly
(to Harry) You know an assistant is the fellow that does the work and

the real manager (look at Scott) is the one who draws the big salary.

Lucille

(enter R) Hello everybody. (all greet her casually) (Joe enters L as if speaking to someone off L meet Lucille C) Joe, why haven't you danced all this evening. (all listen)

Joe

(L C) That's so ething I hav n't had time to learn.

Harry

(L to Joe) I've been trying all evening to get a chance to speak to you but you have avoided me.

Joe

The last time we met was two years ago. I suppose you remember it.

Harry

But two years can make a big change in a man.

Joe

(pointed) In some men, yes.

Harry

I happened to be one of them. I haven't turned a crooked deal since I tired to railroad you to the pen.

Joe

I am glad to hear that.

Harry

I've squared myself with the others, and I'm going straight. Will you trust me? (offers hand)

Joe

(looks, smiles shakes) Sure thing.

Harry

I'll hunt up Aunt Milly, and tell her its all right (exit L)

Polly

(to Joe) They say you are worth a quarter of a million is that true?

Joe

No (all disappointed pause he smiles) Lack about a hundred dollars of having that much. (all laugh he X's to Lucille)

Polly

(to Joe) Do you know I think you are about the most wonderful man in the world?

Joe

Scott, will be getting jealous if you're not careful.

Polly

I should worry about him, we've been married nearly two years and have outgrown such foolishness.

Joe

Are you happy?

Polly

Happiness is our family name.

Scott

(X to C) I must be looking after the comfort of our guest, and must ask you to excuse me. (bows C)

Polly

Oh how formal he is.

Scott

Just let someone try getting away with ut paying his bill and I'll be more formal than that. (all laugh Scott and Polly exit)

Joe

(to Lucille who has X'sd down R) Are you satisfied with everything?

Lucille

More than satisfied, I'm bewildered. I can't seem to somehow feel it is a reality. We never dreamed of you doing so much for us.

Joe

Its not bne half as much as you folks deserve. When I got to New York,

I saw building erected as memorials to different people who are dead and gone, monumens raised in memory to men and women, who have been of some use in the world. I thought of you, Scott and Aunt Milly. Your kindness has made me what I am, and I wanted to build this hotel for you folks. It will go of some use to her while she is living, and when Aunt Milly's gone, it will stand as a memorial to her.

Lucille

You must have worked awful hard these past two years.

Joe

Yes, but when a man has one ideal he's working for---when there's a goal he's trying to reach---every moment's work is a pleasure.

Lucille

(seat R) And have you reached your goal?

Joe

Not yet. (shy look at her)

Lucille

I thought your goal was the respect of your fellow men.

Joe

I've got that, but there's a higher goal I'm wanting to reach, its happiness.

Lucille

I should think you would have that now.

Joe

Don't you remember that I once said that my dreams of happiness were some good woman that I could call my own?

Lucille

Yes, but I never mentioned her in your letter after you went away.

Joe

I suppose you thought I had forgotten about her

Lucille

I thought you might have been disappointed, and I wouldn't open up old wounds by mentioning it.

Joe

Do you remember I told you I wouldn't tell anyone who she was until I had made something of myself? Until I was a man she need not be ashamed of?

Lucille

Yes.

Joe

Do you think I'm worthy of a good woman, am I a man a woman need not be ashamed to marry?

Lucille

Joe, you are a man any woman ought to be proud of.

Joe

If that's your honest opinion I'll ask her tonight.

Lucille

Is she here, at our hotel?

Joe

Yes.

Lucille

(pause) Who is she?

Joe

I'll show her to you. (takes photo from pocket hesitates, show to her) (Lucille amazed)

Lucille

Why---why it is is---a photograph of---of myself.

Joe

Yes.

Lucille

And I---I am the girl you've been working for?

Joe

Lucille, you are the girl, I have dreamed of making someday my wife.
Will my dreams come true.

Lucille

Yes. (clinch)

Toby

(enter Quick down) Lucille, can you lend me the loan of a dollar?

Lucille

Yes, but what do you want with it?

Toby

(C) I want to pay Scott the dollar I borrowed from him two years ago
to pay back the dollar I borrowed from Joe to pay Aunt Milly the dollar
I borrowed from her, to--- (curtain as last speech is being read)

THE END